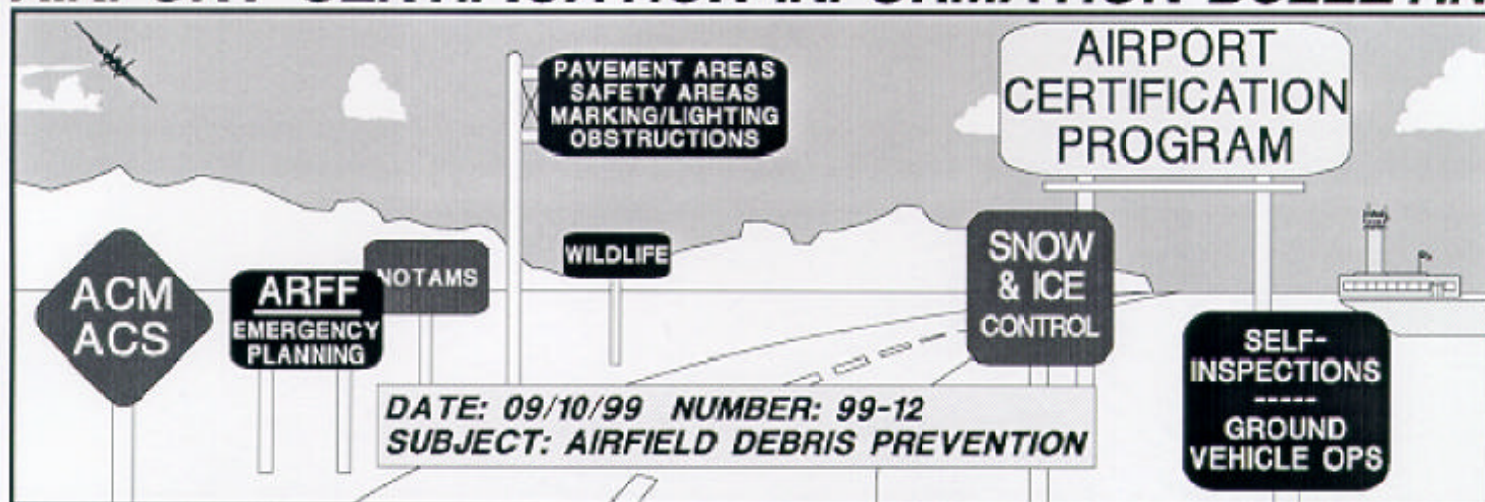


# AIRPORT CERTIFICATION INFORMATION BULLETIN



Debris on airfield aprons, taxiways, and runways causes damage to aircraft. This damage (commonly referred to as foreign object damage or FOD) can impact flight safety, lead to lost revenues, and is expensive to repair. Debris on the airfield can also cause damage to airport vehicles and equipment. This presents a hazard for airport equipment operators.

Some airports are routinely littered with debris that includes paper, cardboard, plastic wrap, work gloves, empty cans/bottles, and plastic bands. Additionally, equipment such as wheel chocks and gear pins can become debris if they are dropped on the movement areas. Airports must make reasonable efforts to prevent the introduction of such debris onto the airfield. The keys to making this happen include appropriate emphasis on: 1) Suitable materials storage and transport; 2) Prompt debris disposal; 3) Thorough cleanup after accidents/incidents; and 4) Applicable training.

**STORAGE AND TRANSPORT:** Be sure that all materials are properly stored and/or tied down during transport or when stockpiled. This would include materials associated with food trucks, baggage carts, and loading docks, as well as construction vehicles and sites.

**DEBRIS DISPOSAL:** Debris should be placed in covered containers. When a container is full, report it to the owner and use another location. Do not overfill disposals. Debris from overfilled disposals eventually winds up on airfield pavement areas, and can create an attraction to wildlife, particularly gulls. Also, report malfunctioning disposals to the owner.

**CLEANUP:** Debris that is the result of an accident/incident should be cleaned up immediately. If help is needed for cleanup, report the problem to the proper authority.

**TRAINING:** Everyone working at an airport must be made aware of the negative impacts caused by debris on the airfield. Your goal should be to minimize and perhaps eliminate debris on your airport, and provide a safer environment for the traveling public.

Airport operators should be alert for plastic bands used in binding cartons, newspapers, and other packages. When not disposed of properly, these plastic straps pose a safety hazard both on parking aprons and in aircraft movement areas where they may be blown. If ingested into an intake, they are quite capable of compromising the integrity of a jet engine.

